

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECD, CIEC

SUBJECT: JAN 16 G- 8 MTG: ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS(PART L)

REFS: (A) STATE 8423, (B) STATE 2991

1. SUMMARY: DURING JAN 16 G-8 MEETING, CANADIAN AMB
MACLEAN OUTLINED ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY DECISIONS
WHICH HE HAD ARRIVED AT WITH PEREZ-GUERRERO DURING
COURSE OF MEETINGS THIS WEEK. MACLEAN AND P-G HAVE
SENT JOINT LETTER TO GUITTON AUTHORIZING HIM TO TAKE
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ON LIMITED STAFF IN ADVANCE OF BUDGET DECISION, PRIM-

ARILY ON BASIS OF REIMBURSABLE SECONDMENT. WHILE PRINCIPLE OF SECONDMENT IS NOT YET LOCKED-IN ON ON-GOING BASIS, MACLEAN FEELS IMMORTANT PRECEDENT HAS BEEN SET AND THAT P-G PROBABLY WILL EVENTUALLY ACCEPT THIS PROCEDURE FOR ENTIRE STAFF EXCEPT FOR GUITTON AND POSSIBLY THE OTHER FRENCHMEN. MACLEAN ALSO OUTLINED MAIN ELEMENTS OF DRAFT BUDGET WHICH IS NOW COMPLETED AND EXPECTED TO BE CIRCULATED BY GUITTON TO 27 EARLY NEXT WEEK. OTHER ASPECTS OF G-8 MEETING REPORTED BY SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

2. MACLEAN OUTLINED THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY DECISIONS WHICH HE HAD ARRIVED AT WITH PEREZ-GUERRERO DURING COURSE OF MEETINGS THIS WEEK. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD DONE HIS BEST TO REPRESENT VIEWS EXPRESSED BY G-8 MEMBERS, THAT PEREZ-GUERRERO HAD DIFFERED ON SOME ISSUES, AND THAT CANADIANS FELT THAT THEY HAD RESPONSIBILITY TO MOVE AHEAD ON URGENT ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS. UNDERLYING MACLEAN'S ENTIRE PRESENTATION WAS HOPE THAT G-8 WOULD RECOGNIZE NEED FOR AVOIDING UNNECESSARY DISAGREEMENTS WITH PEREZ-GUERRERO WHO HE FELT HAD DEMONSTRATED BOTH A WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE AND AN ABILITY TO KEEP 19 IN LINE ON ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS.

3. SECRETARIAT STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS. MACLEAN STATED THAT FOR PURELY TECHNICAL REASON THAT GUITTON HAD NO AUTHORITY TO HIRE STAFF ON BEHALF OF CONFERENCE UNTIL CIEC BUDGET IS APPROVED, HE AND PEREZ-GUERRERO HAD AGREED ON AND SENT TO GUITTON A LETTER AUTHORIZING HIM TO RECRUIT IN ADVANCE 7-9 MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT WHICH WOULD TOTAL 15 ACCORDING TO BUDGET DISCUSSED BELOW. THOSE RECRUITED IMMEDIATELY WOULD BE THE TWO DEPUTIES (AS SOON AS G-8 HAVE AGREED ON THEIR MAN), AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO GUITTON (PROBABLY A FRENCH OFFICIAL WITH PREVIOUS ASSOCIATION WITH GUITTON, FOUR ADMINISTRATORS (TWO FROM G-8 AND TWO FROM G-19), AND TWO "LADY SECRETARIES" (PROBABLY, BUT NOT NECESSARILY BILINGUAL FRENCH NATIONALS). MACLEAN EMPHASIZED THAT THIS INITIAL STAFF WOULD BE "INTERIM" ONLY IN TECHNICAL SENSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT WOULD IN FACT BE "ADVANCE DRAWAL" ON ON-GOING STAFF. OFFICIALS WOULD THEREFORE BE RECRUITED ON ASSUMPTION THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE FOR ENTIRE YEAR UNLESS SEVERE PROBLEMS SHOULD ARISE. CANADIANS WOULD ACCORDINGLY ENSURE THAT OFFICIALS PUT FORWARD AT THIS TIME BY G-8 WERE APPROPRIATELY QUALIFIED AND WOULD HAVE SUPPORT OF THE ENTIRE GROUP.

4. ON QUESTION OF SECONDMENT VS DIRECT HIRE BY CONFERENCE, MACLEAN SAID CANADIANS URGED THAT ENTIRE STAFF, WITH EXCEPTION OF GUITTON WHO HAS SPECIAL STATUS VIS A VIS THE CONFERENCE, BE RECRUITED ON BASIS OF REIMBURSABLE SECONDMENT. THIS WAS, HOWEVER, DIFFICULT POINT OF DISAGREEMENT WITH PEREZ-GUERRERO, WHO STRONGLY FAVORED DIRECT HIRE SYSTEM BASED ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SALARY SCALE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF TENSIONS WHICH MIGHT ARISE AMONG STAFF IF THERE WERE DIFFERENCES IN SALARY FOR THE SAME JOB. P-G HAD NEVERTHELESS AGREED TO PRINCIPLE THAT SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICIALS RECRUITED IMMEDIATELY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PAID BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND THEN REIMBURSED AFTER BUDGET IS ADOPTED.

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CANADIANS ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS PROCEDURE WILL WORK SMOOTHLY AND THAT P-G WILL EVENTUALLY AGREE TO FOLLOW IT FOR THE FULL STAFF BUT EMPHASIZED THAT P-G CONTINUES TO HAVE STRONG DOUBTS ABOUT SECONDMENT, BASED IN PART ON HIS EXPERIENCE AS UNCTAD SECRETARY-GENERAL. CANADIANS FEEL THAT P-G HAS ALREADY MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS ON THIS ISSUE AND THAT BEST MEANS OF WINNING HIS EVENTUAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE NOT TO PRESS HIM NOW BUT TO DEMONSTRATE IN THE PERIOD BEFORE THE BUDGET IS APPR-
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OVED THAT SECONDMENT WORKS.

5. US REP (CHARGE KATZ) NOTED THAT WE FAVOR SYSTEM IN WHICH GOVERNMENTS SUPPLYING SECONDED OFFICIALS WOULD BE REIMBURSED ON BASIS OF SALARY AND ALLOWANCES ACTUALLY PAID. MAC LEAN EMPHASIZED HE HAD TAKEN THIS VIEW INTO ACCOUNT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH P-G. THEIR LETTER TO GUITTON CONTAINED "VAGUE" QUALIFIER TO EFFECT THAT AMOUNTS TO BE REIMBURSED TO GOVERNMENTS FOR OFFICIALS SECONDED IMMEDIATELY WOULD BE LIMITED BY EVENTUAL DECISION ON BUDGET, I.E., IF BUDGET PROVIDED FOR DIFFERENT SALARY FOR THAT POSITION, ONLY THAT AMOUNT WOULD BE REIMBURSED TO GOVERNMENTS. MAC LEAN SAID THAT P-G FEELS STRONGLY THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME LIMIT ON AMOUNTS TO BE REIMBURSED TO GOVERNMENTS SO AS TO AVOID SITUATION IN WHICH SOME GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE REIMBURSED MORE THAN OTHERS FOR SUPPLYING OFFICIALS FOR EQUIVALENT POSITIONS. MACLEAN SAID HE SUSPECTED THAT P-G WOULD EVENTUALLY ACCEPT PRINCIPLE OF SECONDMENT FOR ON-GOING STAFF BUT THAT HE WOULD INSIST THAT THERE BE LIMITS ON AMOUNTS TO BE REIMBURSED TO SECONDING GOVERNMENTS.

6. MACLEAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE MAY BE EXCEPTIONS TO GENERAL RULE OF SECONDMENT. P-G FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT GUITTON SHOULD BE PAID DIRECTLY BY CONFERENCE TO INDICATE CLEARLY THAT HE IS NOT WORKING FOR FRENCH BUT FOR CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE THROUGH THE CO-CHAIRMAN. CANADIANS AGREE ON THIS POINT. MOREOVER, FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAD DOUBTS RE PROVIDING FRENCH SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS ON SECONDMENT BASIS. MACLEAN SAID THAT P-G HAD CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT IF GUITTON WERE TO BE PAID BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT HE MIGHT BE VIEWED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF G-8 IN DIVIDING UP THE NUMBER OF SECRETARIAT POSTS TO

BE ALLOCATED TO EACH SIDE. THUS, WHILE GENERAL RULE
WOULD BE SECONDMENT, CANADIANS FELT IT WAS IN GENERAL
INTEREST THAT CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS BE ALLOWED.

7. BUDGET. MACLEAN SAID THAT GUITTON HAD COMPLETED
DRAFT BUDGET PREPARED UNDER HIS AND P-G'S GUIDANCE. HE
EXPECTED DOCUMENT TO BE CIRCULATED BY GUITTON TO THE 27
EARLY NEXT WEEK. MEETING OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
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COMMITTEE (FAC) TO CONSIDER BUDGET IS NOW SET FOR FEB 2.
CANADIAN AND VENEZUELAN OBJECTIVE IS TO KEEP BUDGET AND
FAC UNDER TIGHT CONTROL SO THAT FAC DOES NOT TURN INTO
MINI-CIEC. CANADIANS DO NOT WANT OTHER MEMBERS OF 19
TO REOPEN AT FAC DELICATE COMPROMISES WHICH HAVE BEEN
REACHED WITH P-G. HE THEREFORE HOPED THAT G-8 WOULD
KEEP THIS LARGER OBJECTIVE IN MIND AND CONFINE EXAMIN-
ATION TO TRULY TECHNICAL BUDGET ISSUES.

8. MACLEAN SAID DRAFT BUDGET CALLS FOR EXPENDITURES OF
APPROXIMATELY FRANCS 20 MILLION, WITH POSSIBILITY OF
ENLARGING THAT AMOUNT ON PROPOSAL BY GUITTON IN CONSUL-
TATION WITH CO-CHAIRMEN IF IT APPEARS NECESSARY AFTER
SIX MONTHS. THIS AMOUNT INCLUDES RENTAL OF CONFERENCE
CENTER, SINCE FRENCH NOW INDICATE THAT THEY CAN NOT
PROVIDE IT GRATIS BECAUSE THEY WILL NEED TO RENT
ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR OTHER CONFERENCES SCHEDULED DURING
THE YEAR. BUDGET PROVIDES FOR CONTRACTING ALL SUPPORT

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SERVICES THROUGH FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

9. BUDGET PROVIDES FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT OF 15 PERSONS, COMPRISING (IN ADDITION TO POSITIONS CITED PARA 2) FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, DOCUMENTS OFFICER, PRESS OFFICER, AND TWO ADDITIONAL SECRETARIES ATTACHED DIRECTLY TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT. CANADIANS AND VENEZUELAN AGREE THAT FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER SHOULD BE FRENCH, SINCE HIS BASIC ROLE WILL BE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GET THINGS DONE IN A FRENCH ENVIRONMENT, AND CONSIDER IT LIKELY THAT THE SECRETARIES WOULD BE FRENCH. INCLUDING THE TWO DEPUTIES, G-8 AND G-19 WOULD THEREFORE HAVE EIGHT POSITIONS TO DIVIDE EQUALLY BETWEEN THEM.

10. AS FOR ROLE OF FOUR "ADMINISTRATORS," MACLEAN SAID HE SAW THEM AS THE MAIN POOL OF "WORK HORSES" OF THE SECRETARIAT. THEY SHOULD BE SELECTED CAREFULLY NOT REPEAT NOT ON BASIS OF SUBSTANTIVE POLICY BACK-GROUND BUT FOR GENERAL COMPETENCE AND WILLINGNESS TO WORK. WHILE IT IS THOUGHT THAT THEY MIGHT EVENTUALLY SORT OUT INTO ONE MAN PER COMMISSION, THIS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE THE CASE SINCE EACH COMMISSION WOULD PROBABLY HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS AND WORK PATTERNS.

11. US REP STATED THAT WE SAW NO REASON FOR PRESS OFFICER AND WERE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THAT POSITION. MACLEAN SAID HE INITIALLY HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THAT POSITION BUT HAD PUT IT FORWARD BECAUSE IT HAD APPEARED ON PAPERS (PREPARED BY ELDIN) WHICH RECEIVED GENERAL ENDORSEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AT G-8 MEETINGS DURING CIEC MINISTERIAL. MOREOVER, UPON REFLECTION HE HAD COME TO CONCLUSION THAT THERE WOULD BE GREAT PRESS INTEREST, THAT SECRETARIAT SHOULD ORGANIZE IN SOME WAY TO HANDLE PRESS QUERIES AND THAT GUITTON OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT CONTINUE TO PERFORM PRESS FUNCTION AS IN MINISTERIAL. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT PRESS OFFICER WOULD HAVE NO INDEPENDENT STATUS AND THAT HE COULD SPEAK ONLY AS AUTHORIZED BY CONFERENCE OR COMMISSION CO-CHAIRMAN. MACLEAN ADDED THAT IF THERE WERE NOT A PRESS OFFICER, G-8 AND G-19 WOULD END UP WITH UNEQUAL NUMBER OF POSITIONS TO DIVIDE BETWEEN THEM.
KATZ

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